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A.C. JAMES



lymouth Congregational Church was organized on November 7, 1897. At that time it was located on McFarlane Road next to the Coconut Grove Library.

Under the leadership of the Rev. George B. Spalding and the real estate know-how of George E. Merrick a portion of the present campus was purchased in 1915. A sub-division called "Plymouth Court" was created with a winding street named Devon Road. The lots on the south were sold to three retired Admirals—Rear Admiral Albert H. Ross, Rear Admiral C.J. Boush, and Rear Admiral Robert M. Doyle. Hence the Origin of "Admiral Row." The money from the sale of these twelve lots was used to help finance the building of the church.

The original part of the Church was started in June 1916 and completed in August 1917. Nationally known Architect Clinton McKenzie drew up the plans, which were taken from the design of an old Mexico City Mission Church.

The rocks to build the church were given by Mr. Fin L. Pierce. It is surface rock taken from property he owned on Sunset Road just south of Coco Plum Plaza.

The stone work was done by just one man, a Spaniard, Felix Rebom, whose only tools were a hatchet, a trowel, a T square and a plumb line!

The stone pillars for the side porches added in 1918 were ordered through James Deering of Villa Vizcaya, who also volunteered financial assistance.

The ancient front door (about 375 years old) came from a Monastery in the Pyrenees Mountains. It is made of hand carved walnut backed with oak and has the original hand wrought iron fittings. The donor was Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James (wife of the railroad magnate) who previously had generously contributed to the building of the Manse, the Outdoor Pulpit and the Cloistered Garden.

